

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTES

September 29, 2003

Supervisors in Attendance:

Mr. Arthur S. Warren, Chairman
Mr. Edward B. Barber
Mrs. Renny B. Humphrey

Mr. Lane B. Ramsey
County Administrator

Special Guests:

Congressman Eric Cantor
Delegate Lee Ware
Senator John Watkins

Staff in Attendance:

Colonel Carl R. Baker,
Police Department
Mr. Craig Bryant, Dir.,
Utilities
Dr. Billy Cannaday, Jr.,
Supt., School Board
Ms. Marilyn Cole, Asst.
County Administrator
Ms. Mary Ann Curtin, Dir.,
Intergovtl. Relations
Ms. Lisa Elko, CMC
Clerk to Board
Mr. Bradford S. Hammer,
Deputy Co. Admin.,
Human Services
Mr. Donald Kappel, Dir.,
Public Affairs
Dep. Chief Paul Mauger,
Fire Department
Mr. Steven L. Micas,
County Attorney
Dr. William Nelson,
Dir., Health Dept.
Mr. James J. L. Stegmaier,
Deputy Co. Admin.,
Management Services
Mr. M. D. Stith, Jr.,
Deputy Co. Admin.,
Community Development

Mr. Warren welcomed citizens to the meeting and explained the format of the meeting. After several brief presentations he explained that every citizen would be able to make comments or suggestions and could meet with representatives from the insurance industry, utilities companies and governmental agencies at tables at the rear of the meeting room. Mr. Warren indicated that Mr. Barber would moderate the citizen portion of the meeting.

Delegate Ware gave an invocation.

Mr. Warren introduced Congressman Cantor who explained the federal response to the disaster and thanked County citizens for their volunteer efforts in helping fellow citizens recover from the storm.

Ms. Humphrey expressed her concern about the damage to her area of the county and the effect on individuals who lived in rural areas.

Mr. Ramsey provided an overview of the extent of the damage in Chesterfield and the county's response to disaster relief.

A representative from FEMA explained how the FEMA claims process works, mentioned SBA loans and recommended that people with damage to their property file claims.

A vice-president from Dominion Power explained the extent of the damage to the Virginia Power grid representing 80% of their customers without power or 1.8 million accounts. He also explained the process by which Virginia Power worked to restore power and how crews were brought in from many states and Canada.

Dr. Cannaday explained how the school system was affected by the storm including loss of food and the schedule for reopening of schools.

Approximately 25 citizens spoke from various neighborhoods affected by the storm. Their comments included questions about who was responsible for trees falling from adjacent properties, whether the County could go on private property to remove debris and whether electric power rates would be increased to pay for the cost of recovery. Dr. Nelson from the Health Department warned about damage to drainfields when equipment is removing debris. A teacher from James River High School summarized comments from students particularly about the lack of a central voice for communication. Several citizens wanted all power lines to be underground. A resident of Woodmont couldn't understand why it took longer than seven days to return power and that priority should be given to those with wells. A Clover Hill Farms resident and an Ashley Woods resident complained about the slow and random pace of electricity restoration. Citizens expressed concerns that rights of way were not cleared on predictable three-year schedules, that priorities for repair by Virginia Power should be revised, and that communication from Virginia Power was misleading. A citizen raised questions about price gouging which was answered by the County Attorney. Citizens suggested that ice and water be distributed at multiple locations such as fire stations and that a shelter be located in Northern Chesterfield. Comments were made about providing a central voice for information after the storm and that communications were not as consistent as it should have been with WRVA being particularly negative.

The meeting ended with citizens talking to various representatives from organizations providing assistance to citizens.

Lane B. Ramsey
County Administrator

Arthur S. Warren
Chairman